

ISSUE 18

APRIL / MAY 2015

Labor Donated

## Rogue Valley rallies against Fast Track

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden targeted in national opposition campaign

BY JASON HOUK

Over 60 residents joined an afternoon rally at Vogel Plaza in April to protest "Fast Track" and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade deal that will destroy jobs, ruin the environment and take away Internet freedoms in the name of boosting corporate profits. Representatives from many community groups, workers and activists opposed to the trade agreement gathered with signs and chants while passing cars honked with approval.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a trade deal that has been under negotiation since 2008. Called "NAFTA on Steroids", the deal includes the U.S. and 11 Pacific Rim countries: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. Together, these nations represent 40 percent of the world's GDP, making this the largest trade deal yet.

The TPP has been strongly opposed by the public because of its secretive nature and details that have been revealed through WikiLeaks. Opponents are concerned the TPP will dramatically expand the power of corporations to use



On April 18, Southern Oregon rallies against the Trans Pacific Partnership  
Photo by Allen Hallmark

closed-door tribunals to challenge—and supersede—domestic laws, including environmental, labor, and public health, and other protections.

Oregon Senator Wyden has been a key player in moving this legislation forward. Wyden worked with Orrin Hatch, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Rep. Paul Ryan and others to craft a deal that would allow "fast-track"

status for the TPP, as long as the Obama administration consults Congress.

Wyden has been targeted in Oregon and nationally for his role. Many organizers promise to oppose Wyden's efforts for reelection.

Ivend Holen, a Medford resident and member of the Oregon Fair Trade

TPP 12



## (RE)OCCUPY ASHLAND

Occupy Ashland will be returning  
in May 2015

Check out Occupy Ashland Facebook  
or RVCommunityPress.com  
for the details

### Stay Informed

New Day Breakfast takes place on the third Friday of the month. A potluck breakfast begins at 8 AM. After socializing and eating, the presentation starts at 8:30. Starting at 9 AM, we will have time for announcements, requests for collaboration and other issues. For details, visit [roguevalleynewdaynetwork.org](http://roguevalleynewdaynetwork.org)

Peace House Newsletter  
The best local, online source for the latest social justice news and events.  
<http://alturl.com/8j7zs>

Rogue Valley Community Press  
Your community newspaper  
[rvcommunitypress.com](http://rvcommunitypress.com)

KSQ 89.5 FM Community Radio  
KSQ strives to provide opportunities for the community to plug in. Tune in to 89.5 FM every morning from 7-9 am to get the latest news, weather and interviews. Plug in with your groups for PSA's, interviews and event notifications. [www.ksq.org](http://www.ksq.org)

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Independent Media Week

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and all your letters, actions  
and events...



Debra Van Poolen, joins Mediya Benjamin and Code Pink demonstrators in front of the White House calling on President Barack Obama to reject the Keystone XL oil pipeline. Van Poolen will be the keynote speaker during Independent Media Week  
AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta

# Letter from the Editor

Dear readers,  
You know how it is when a song starts playing in your head and you can't do anything about it other than walk around humming (or in my case singing, very off key) until the music fades? David Bowie lyrics run through my mind as I sit here today.

"Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes  
Turn and face the strange  
Ch-ch-changes  
Don't tell them to grow up and out of it  
Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes  
Turn and face the strange  
Ch-ch-changes  
Where's your shame?"

*You've left us up to our necks in it  
Time may change me  
But you can't trace time"*

You've noticed that our Community Press is looking different? We have been using the same format for the last 3 years and we were a little tired of it. We both miss the format and simplicity of the Ashland Free Press and had long conversations about how we wanted to move forward. We're really excited about this new style-- it feels like we've gone back to our roots in a physical way and we both feel challenged to push ourselves creatively again.

Our friends at Occupy Medford are

organizing a trip to San Jose (June 24-27) to the US Social Forum which is a gathering designed to bring people together from across the country to build social movements and create change. Occupy Medford meets every Saturday at 10 AM in the Medford Library. To keep costs down they will be using a rideshare service and registration fees are reduced when bought as a group purchase.

And that's a good segway for some information about Occupy Ashland which had disbanded back in 2011. There's some effort being made to see if there's interest in gathering again with intentions to work on targeted issues together. We'll post that info on rvcommunitypress.com and on the Rogue Valley Community Press Facebook page as soon as it becomes available.

We hope you are soaking up some Spring sun!

Kindly,  
Vanessa and Jason Houk

## Your Social Justice News Resource

The Rogue Valley Community Press (RVCP) is a publication for the working class and a platform for marginalized voices in our community. Through RVCP, we aim to educate people about social justice issues and inspire them to create positive change. Published monthly, RVCP is available through subscription, local distribution locations.

Contributions from the community are welcome, including articles, letters to the editor, short poetry, and photography. Send submissions to [editor@rvcommunitypress.com](mailto:editor@rvcommunitypress.com). All writing accepted for publication will be edited with due respect for the author's intent. Opinions expressed in RVCP are those of the authors, and not necessarily the editors.

### Advertise

For businesses looking to reach a socially conscious audience, RVCP is perfect for advertising. To learn more, give us a call.

### Contact

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### Staff

**Jason Houk**  
*Publisher*

**Vanessa Houk**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Climate denial threatens us all

Many Congressional representatives continue to stick their heads in the sand, and many state and regional representatives do the same. Yet, even the hardest of climate science deniers outside congress are now retreating as they recognize the absurdity of positions that have been obviously flawed for years.

The American Legislative Exchange Council long promoted efforts to undercut proposals addressing global warming – even in Oregon they opposed eminently sane Renewable Energy Standards for utilities. ALEC continued promoting the falsehood that scientific uncertainty about global warming and its causes exists when, in reality, no uncertainty has existed for years.

ALEC has now decided its previous position is untenable and has threatened legal action against organizations identifying what were obviously its convictions.

The Heartland Institute, a right wing think tank, has promoted climate denial for years publishing articles by climate deniers that could never get published in credible peer-reviewed scientific literature. Now, a prominent Heartland spokesperson declared it: "a rather extreme position to ... allow dangerous pollutants to destroy the only planet we know of that can completely sustain human life..." and argues we should reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

It is time for all climate science deniers to open their eyes and think.

Sincerely,

Alan Journet  
President & Co-facilitator  
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN)  
<http://socan.info>

### We get your letters...

The Rogue Valley Community Press welcomes your articles, letters, PSA's, poems, artwork and events.

Send your stories to [editor@rvcommunitypress.com](mailto:editor@rvcommunitypress.com), or call the RVCP hotline at 541-622-9483.

*Thank You!*

**"There is no more important struggle for American democracy than ensuring a diverse, independent and free media." - Bill Moyers**



**Citizens for Peace & Justice  
and Occupy Medford**

## FILM NIGHT

**Free Public Screening of  
films and documentaries  
of social justice significance.**

**7:00 PM**

**Downtown Medford Library**

**May 12 - Symphony of the Soil  
June 9 - Unmanned - The Drone Wars**

**[www.facebook.com/OccupyMedford](http://www.facebook.com/OccupyMedford)  
email: [occupymedford@gmail.com](mailto:occupymedford@gmail.com)**

**We encourage people to come share  
their causes, ideas and opinions every  
Saturday at 10am in the Medford Library**

**99% STRONG!**

# Papers win public records ruling

VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

It took three years for the newspaper in Medford to win a court order telling the local sheriff to release copies of concealed-weapons permits. The battle still wasn't over. Then-Jackson County Sheriff Mike Winters demanded at least \$18,000 in fees to produce the records — most of it for lawyers to black out personal information.

Going into the 10th anniversary of Sunshine Week, a weeklong initiative highlighting the accountability of government through access to public records, news organizations in Oregon report that government bodies increasingly charge high fees, despite requests to waive them in the public interest.

"It's an easy way, if you are an agency and you don't want to provide documents, to say, 'Sure, we'll do it, but it will cost you \$10,000,' and a lot of people are not able to do that," said Katie Townsend, director of litigation at the Reporter's Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Oregon's public-records law gives government bodies the power to recoup their costs for pulling together, copying and redacting public records of confidential information. If the public body wants to hire a lawyer to review the redactions, the costs quickly mount up.

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said she is organizing a task force to propose updates to the public-records law. "I am concerned that it often takes too long and costs too much to obtain records that shine light on the workings of government," her office said in a statement to The Associated Press."

**Thank you to all of our supporters, subscribers, advertisers and friends.**

# Can legal pot fund social justice?

BY JASON HOUK

This year Oregon joins the states that allow commercial sale of recreational marijuana. In January 2016, the state of Oregon will have in place the structure, licenses and process for the production and sale of recreational marijuana.

Recreational marijuana sales in Colorado and Washington State are estimated to top one billion dollars in 2015. If the experience in these states are any guide, next year will be a gold rush for cannabis-related investments.

Could cannabis be a source of revenue for non-profit and community organizations?

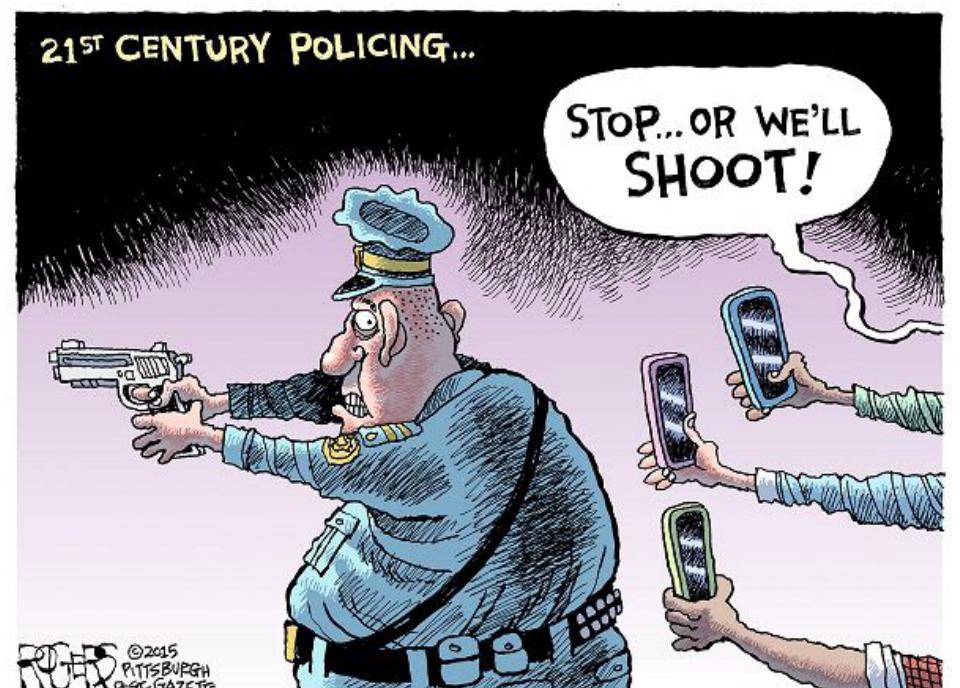
Community groups, independent media and social justice organizations all struggle to find a model for sustainability. Many groups find themselves in competition for the few grants and fundraising opportunities. Many time our work is stifled because we lack the funds, staff and resources.

How can we afford to pay organizers, to train volunteers and to support the efforts of grassroots campaigns?

It is not unheard of for community organizations to benefit from marketing intoxicants. Earlier this month, ice cream giant Ben and Jerry's announced it will team up with New Belgium Brewing to release a beer in the fall of 2015 called "Salted Caramel Brownie Brown Ale." The beer collaboration will benefit an organization called "Protect Our Winters," which helps fight the effects of climate change on mountains.

Perhaps local community groups, independent media resources or social justice organizations could take the initiative to distribute products that could sustain their campaigns.

Southern Oregon is a region primed to take advantage of legalization. Wholesale licence to cultivate and produce a product with the profits dedicated to social justice.



# Lessons from tabling

BY VANESSA HOUK

Making people care about far reaching causes such as health care is a whale of a problem.

Sitting under a white canopy at the Health Care for All Oregon booth at the Pear Blossom on a cold, rainy morning in April, gave me some time to reflect on how we can draw people into the causes we care about. How do you make someone care about issues like health care for example, when they don't identify as folks who will personally benefit from getting that. As we talked to people we heard:

*"I already have health care. I'm covered."  
"I have OHP."  
"I have Medicare."*

Something interesting happened when we began to meet people where they are. *"What about vision and dental-- wouldn't you like to have coverage?"* we asked. Overwhelmingly we heard, *"Yes, I want that."* But it wasn't until we were able to frame our questions to serve some need that is not currently being met, before most folks would start to invest in seeing health care as a human right. In other words, they just didn't care unless we were talking about something that affected them directly in some way.

That must be repeated. They didn't care. How do you make people care? How do you teach compassion in a two minute conversation? This seems like an insurmountable task, a whale of a task if you ask me.

When I was eleven years old, one of my sisters handed me a petition demanding that the Japanese Government end the practice of commercial whaling and (with a nod to the muppet The Amazing Mumford) 'a-la peanut butter sandwiches', an activist was born. I took my painfully shy self, recruited my best friend and the two of us spent a few Saturday afternoons tabling in front of a Raley's supermarket in a Sacramento suburb, collecting signatures that I later mailed off to Greenpeace.

I learned a lot from my stint at trying to save the whales. I learned that people would stop in their tracks in the middle

of what I'm now sure was a harried afternoon, to listen to what a couple of kids had to say about the evils of whaling, however clumsy our message. I learned that I could take information and if not completely change other people's minds, at least plant some seeds that I hoped would be watered along the way. And as we packed up our information and petitions at the end of the day, I felt a sense of satisfaction and pride that has been repeated numerous times, over numerous causes over the years.

To their credit, all of the adults in our lives supported our early activism with the exception of Kristy's mom's boyfriend, Jack, who we knew was a Vietnam Veteran (this was almost always mentioned in a whisper, followed by the directive that we should be understanding), but as hard as I tried, I couldn't understand why he was so negative. *"You're wasting your time,"* he said. *"You can't change anything."* It might have been a coincidence, but many years later I named a feral cat who came into our lives, Terrible Jack.

Back then I saw every signature as one more whale saved and no amount of skepticism could sway my thinking. Our goal was 100 signatures and I believe we got them.

Author Karen Armstrong, a leading expert on the subject of compassion says that *"Compassion... asks us to look into our own hearts, discover what gives us pain, and then refuse, under any circumstance whatsoever, to inflict that pain on anybody else."* What's more painful than a toothache? Headaches that are a symptom of weakening vision? Who among us would begrudge someone else, anyone else from getting the care they so badly need?

None.

We'll get there one signature, one conversation at a time. We'll meet people right where they're at.

*Find out more about Health Care for All Oregon Rogue Valley at [hcao-rv.org](http://hcao-rv.org)*

## Hannah Thomas-Garner Case Update

Readers will recall the search for missing Ashland teen Hannah Thomas Garner, who has since been reunited with her family. Her father, Jeff Garner reports, that Hannah is registering back in school. All is going well as she is getting settled in with her family in Texas. We thank everyone out there who helped this father search for his daughter against the odds and getting her home safe with him. This is what this has really been all about for us; supporting a father's love and concern for his daughter. We thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts!

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Do what you can

It's encouraging that more and more Americans are appreciating that the weird weather we are experiencing is a consequence of human-induced global warming and our emissions of greenhouse gases. And, there's no good reason for inaction.

We know that the taxes each of us pays to the federal government are relatively inconsequential when measured against the total national budget. But this does not absolve us from the moral and legal responsibility to pay our share. Some are not paying their share, but that doesn't change our own responsibilities.

It's the same with greenhouse gas emissions. Each of us should do whatever we can to reduce their impact on the future. This means individually and collectively. Just because Oregon's contribution to the global problem is small, doesn't mean Oregon should do nothing to reduce emissions.

While every effort to minimize greenhouse gas emissions is valuable, probably the most effective would be to place a fee on all greenhouse gas polluting fossil fuels through a statewide carbon fee or cap-and-trade mechanism. Either of these approaches could make a real dent in our emissions and show the nation that we do, indeed, care about future generations.

Ken Deveney  
Ashland

# Applause & Hiss

All over the United States, local governments are coercing individuals and organizations to stop helping their least-well-off neighbors. The National Coalition for the Homeless reported last year that at least 31 cities had restricted or banned food-sharing. The Washington Post offers examples: "Late last year, police in Fort Lauderdale busted a 90-year-old World War II veteran named Arnold Abbott twice in one week for feeding the homeless. In Raleigh, N.C., a church group said the cops threatened to arrest them if they served food to the homeless. And in Daytona Beach, Fla., authorities unsuccessfully levied \$2000 in fines against six people for feeding the homeless at a park."

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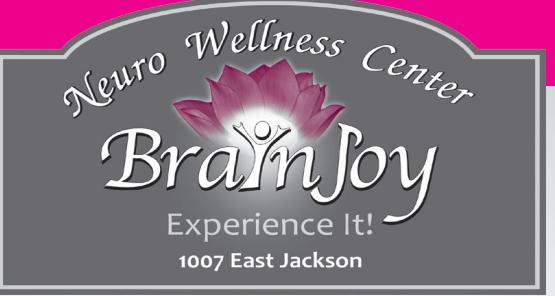
Colorado had raised over \$47,000,000 in marijuana revenue by the end of 2014.



Twenty Five percent of Spongebob Squarepants viewers are adults with no children. The show originally aired in 1999 and will have a new season in summer 2015

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A grocery store in Berlin has recently been designed for 100% package-free shopping



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Kathleen Kellenbeck  
Certified NeurOptimal® Trainer

## Late Fragment

*And did you get what you wanted from this life, even so?  
I did.  
And what did you want?  
To call myself beloved, to feel myself beloved on the earth.*

~ Raymond Carver

## Low wage employers cost taxpayers \$153 billion a year

Low-wage employers cost taxpayers \$153 billion a year. That's the annual bill that state and federal governments are footing for working families making poverty-level wages at big corporations such as Walmart and McDonald's, according to a new study from the University of California Berkeley Labor Center. The study found that because these workers are paid so little, they are increasingly turning to government aid programs such as food stamps to keep them from dire poverty, the study found.

Carrying a peace dove, the Rogue Valley Chapter 156 of Veterans for Peace march in Medford's Pear Blossom Festival Parade for the first time this year. A heavy mist or light drizzle fell throughout the morning into afternoon, but failed to dampen their spirits

Photo by Allen Hallmark

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## Be the ring leader of your family's Media Circus

BY RACHEL ANNE RIDGE

When I was in 7th grade we got a brand new school and a new librarian, who INSISTED that his title was "Media Specialist."

Psh. Media Shmedia.

What kind of "media" did we even have back then? Books, reel to reel movies, and cassette tapes? Hardly enough to be a specialist in. Dewey Decimal Specialist was more like it.

But maybe that guy saw the future tidalwave of electronic information and entertainment and was ahead of his time by a couple of decades.

These days, media has taken over our lives, especially the electronic kind. TVs, computers, ipods, ipads, PDA's, wii's (ok maybe that's not technically media), phones....along with all the chargers, remotes, handhelds and cords to keep them working. This on top of the printed materials we still use. Talk about a media circus!

Today's *Small Thing* is to straighten up the media circus in your house. Return phones to their bases, wrap up loose cords, tuck chargers away, put DVD's into their cases and put cases where they belong. Tame the XBox/Gaming devices. And don't forget the "traditional" media: books, newspapers and magazines. You might want to get the clowns in your house to help you out, even though you'll have to crack the whip a few times to get them to perform.

BONUS POINTS: 60 for closing the curtain on the media circus at your house.

## What's on your mind?

The Rogue Valley Community Press welcomes your articles, letters, PSA's, poems, artwork and events.

Send your stories to editor@rvcommunitypress.com, or call the RVCP hotline at 541-622-9483.

Thank You!

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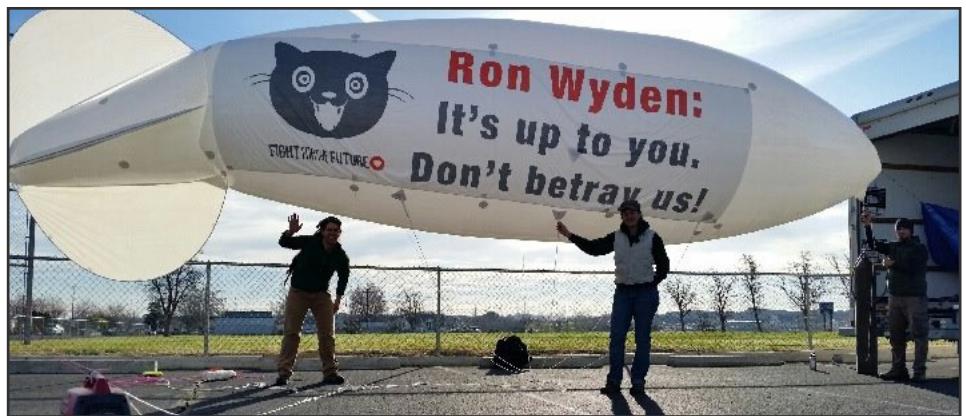
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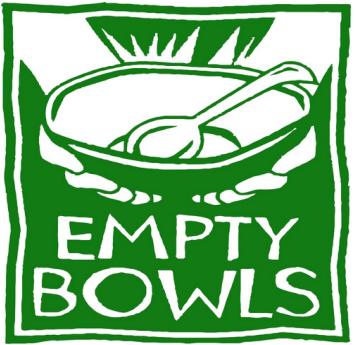
the Senator, and following him between work and home."

Oregon Democrats are also promising to hold Wyden accountable at the ballot box. Holden revealed that US Representative Peter DeFazio of Oregon's Fourth Congressional District is being courted by the Oregon Working Families Party and others to mount a challenge to Senator Wyden in his next primary. Wyden is up for re-election in 2016. "We are probably looking at having to replace him," shared Holen



A 40-foot blimp sums up the opposition's message to Senator Ron Wyden.

Photo via revolution-news.com



**Friday, May 8th 4 to 7 p.m.  
in Wesley Hall of First United  
Methodist Church of Ashland.**



This heartwarming community celebration benefits Uncle Foods Diner and its partners in food security in Ashland--ACCESS, Ashland Emergency Food Bank, and Food Angels. Attendees pick out a hand-crafted bowl, which is filled with delicious soups furnished by area restaurants, plus bread and cookies. Admission is \$25, \$10 for students, free for 12 and under, and free for contributing potters. Friday, May 8th 4 to 7 p.m. in Wesley Hall of First United Methodist Church of Ashland. Tickets available online at [www.peacehouse.net](http://www.peacehouse.net).

## Cuba film series continues

BY MARY ANNE JONES

Cuba films continue on Wednesday May 13, with "CHE: Where You'd Never Imagine Him" at Ashland Public Library in the Gresham Room, 7 pm.

This 53 minute documentary traces the experiences of Ernesto "Che" Guevara from childhood through his formative years and onward.

Following his famed bike journey around South America, we see him in Guatemala during the last days of democratically-elected President Arbenz, overthrown due to the clash between his land reform policies and the demands of the United Fruit Company. In Mexico Che has a fateful meeting with Fidel and Raul Castro, he trains with them and other revolutionaries in preparation for the attack on Batista's Cuba, and they begin the revolution with the landing of the famous yacht GRANMA.

We see Che's role in the early days of the new Cuban government as he takes on the management of industry, and Cuba sends aid to popular movements in Vietnam and in the Congo. His puzzling absence from Cuba is eventually explained in his farewell letter to his adopted and much-loved country. He surfaces in Latin America, again devoting his energy and vision to revolutionary movements until his assassination in Bolivia in 1967.

Discussion and Q and A will follow the film. There will also be information about the 26th Pastors for Peace Cuba Caravan, due in Ashland

on Thursday July 2. All are welcome at this screening; doors open at 6:45. Questions? Call 541-482-8915.

Sponsors include Jackson County Pacific Green Party, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Ashland) and Peace House.

# Study finds that wage hikes do not dampen small business growth

VIA OREGON CENTER  
FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Raising Oregon's minimum wage to \$15 per hour could boost the bottom line of small businesses, a sector that has enjoyed growth even after substantial wage hikes over the years. That's according to a new study by the Oregon Center for Public Policy.

"History shows that the small business sector can thrive following an increase to the state minimum wage," said the Center's executive director, Chuck Sheketoff.

The legislature is considering a bill that would raise Oregon's minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2018, up from the current \$9.25 per hour. HB 2009 would phase in the increase in three steps.

When fully phased in, the increase would directly raise wages for an estimated 589,000 workers, according to the Center. Some additional workers already earning above \$15 per hour would also see their wages rise, according to the Center. Over the three years, lower-income workers directly and indirectly affected would gain about \$3.2 billion in added wages.

"More money in the pockets of workers means more customers for small businesses all across the state," Sheketoff said.

Minimum wage increases over the years have not held back Oregon's small business sector, according to the study. Oregon raised the minimum wage three times from 1989 to 2002, not counting the annual inflation adjustments that began in 2004. The 1989 legislature enacted a phased

increase that resulted in a 42 percent hike in Oregon's minimum wage by January 1, 1991.

The \$15 proposal pending before the legislature would similarly increase the minimum wage over the first two years (43 percent), according to the Center's calculations. Over the entire three-year phase-in, Oregon's minimum wage would go up a total of 62 percent.

Voters by initiative increased the minimum wage two other times, in 1996 and 2002.

From 1988 to 2007, before the start of the Great Recession, the number of small businesses and small business jobs in Oregon grew by more than a third, the Center's study noted. The growth was mostly uninterrupted, with "contractions seemingly tied to the business cycle, not to minimum wage increases."

One of the ways in which businesses adjust to higher minimum wages is through increased worker productivity, the study said.

"When you pay your workers more, they tend to stick around longer and go the extra mile for the business," said Sheketoff. "Lower turnover and better productivity means savings for the owners."

"While the impact of a higher minimum wage on small businesses draws a great deal of attention, Sheketoff noted that most of the jobs in Oregon currently paying less than \$15 are with "larger businesses." The Center's study explained that there is no standard definition of "small business." That



Local Fight for \$15 activists join in nationwide actions on April 15.  
Photo by Jason Houk

said, the study found that about 52 percent of the jobs paying under \$15 per hour are jobs with businesses with 100 or more employees, and another 10 percent are with businesses with 50 to 99 employees.

"An increase in the minimum wage is good for workers, good for small businesses and good for Oregon," Sheketoff concluded.

*The Oregon Center for Public Policy is a non-partisan, non-profit institute that does in-depth research and analysis on budget, tax and economic issues. The Center's goal is to improve decision making and generate more opportunities for all Oregonians.*

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# Jewish peace activists form Rogue Valley group

COMPILED FROM PRESS RELEASE

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), a national organization dedicated to peace and justice in Israel and Palestine has a new chapter here in the Rogue Valley. According to a press release, JVP members are inspired by Jewish tradition to work together for peace, social justice, equality, human rights, respect for international law, and a U.S. foreign policy based on these ideals. They seek an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem; security and self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians; a just solution for Palestinian refugees based on principles established in international law; an end to violence against civilians; and peace and justice for all peoples of the Middle East.

Group leader, Ben Baruch says, "We are ill-served by those advocating hostility

over diplomacy and falsely claiming to speak for us. We strongly condemn Benjamin Netanyahu's meddling in US foreign affairs and his attempt to undermine a good agreement to curtail Iran's ability to develop nuclear weapons. Iran is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Israel has refused to sign the treaty and has a large nuclear arsenal despite its promise not to be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the region."

One of the missions of JVP is to provide an alternative voice to the uncritical support of Israeli actions that dominated the U.S. public forum for so many years. Before that alternative voice was raised, most Americans never heard of the terrible injustices being done to the Palestinians, Israel's frequent violations of international law such as its invasions of Lebanon, and the fact that it is the only nation in the Middle East that

possesses nuclear weapons.

Rachel Corrie, a 23 year old peace activist, was run over and killed by an Israeli military bulldozer in 2003 as she was trying to prevent the demolition of a Palestinian family's home. Gene Robbins, Corries' uncle and member of JVP said, "We think that all people, Jews and non-Jews alike, should stand up for American ideals of justice. Israel continues to violate the Palestinians' human rights by not allowing them to return to their family homes, stealing their land and water, and preventing their freedom of travel. In America, justice is more important than ethnic/religious allegiance. We should not be supporting a nation that violates this sacred ideal. The Palestinians deserve our support in their fight for justice."

For more information, contact Benjamin Ben Baruch, 734-507-0862, bbenbaruch@ashlandhome.net

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Cap greenhouse gases

Oregon House Bill 3470, the Climate Stability and Justice Act, caps greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with goals established by Oregon House Bill HB 3542 approved in 2007 without enabling programs. It needs help. The way to have a positive impact on HB3470 is to contact as many of your political representatives as you can. In the past, I have said that we cannot wait for the politicians to act. It's up to us; we need to act by contacting them now.

The key targets are: Members of the House Energy and Environmental Committee, your regional representatives, and members of the House and Senate Leadership Team. They need encouragement from us to act on behalf of both us and future generations. Visit the SOCAN website for information about the bill. [www.socan.info](http://www.socan.info)

You may be frightened to learn that for a livable planet, we MUST stay under 3.6 Degrees Fahrenheit of warming, a limit we will overshoot if we fail to act with urgency. Think about making contact and picture your children and grandchildren; the way we live now can be improved. We should not allow the fossil fuel corporations to destroy their future.

Louise Shawkat

## CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY

# MAY DAY PEOPLES ASSEMBLY

A Peoples' Forum on social-economic issues of the day including:

15 NOW!, Paid Sick Leave for ALL Oregon workers,  
Walmart Workplace Issues, Health Care for All Oregon,  
Immigration Rights & Issues, and MORE



Carpools from Ashland and Medford leave at 4:30 pm.  
Call now to reserve a ride or volunteer space in your vehicle.  
For more information, call 541-482-6988 or visit [www.sojwj.org](http://www.sojwj.org)

# Confronting Fracking Film showcases community response

VIA SOCAN

Fracking is a technique by which gas is extracted from mineral deposits - a process which consumes huge volumes of water and, unfortunately, produces equally huge volumes of polluted wastewater. Due to exemptions embedded in the 2005 Federal Energy Policy Act, energy corporations are allowed to inject toxic and carcinogenic chemicals under pressure into the ground to extract the resource. At Southern Oregon Climate Action Now's (SOCAN) April meeting, see how a community stands together, and directly challenges fracking. April 28, SOCAN presents "Groundswell Rising: Protecting our Children's Air and Water." This provocative documentary tracks a people's movement to protect life, today and tomorrow. The video is followed by a discussion of how this story relates to the Jordan Cove/ Pacific Connector pipeline planned for Southern Oregon. To quote Mark Ruffalo, "Besides the incredible information on fracking's detriment to our health, [this film] is also a great look into what it is like to live in a town



*The film Groundswell Rising: Communities Confronting Fracking will be shown on April 28 at 6 pm at the Medford Public Library*

with fracking in the backyard....Plain and simply, it's the human side of this debate." The program is free, open to the public, and is part of Rogue Valley's 2015 Independent Media Week. April 28, 6pm, Medford Public Library, 205 South Central Avenue. For more information, contact Dr. Alan Journet, SOCAN Co-Facilitator, [alan.journet@gmail.com](mailto:alan.journet@gmail.com), 541-301-4107.

# In memoriam Michael McGuire

VIA KSKQ



It is with great sadness to hear about the passing of Michael McGuire, the broadcast engineer who shepherded KSKQ all the way from its beginnings in 2004 to where we are today, broadcasting at 560 watts to the whole Rogue Valley. Michael was a member of the original team that dreamed of having a low power community radio station in Ashland.

After the station received its low power construction permit from the FCC in 2004, Michael helped everyone keep their "eyes on the prize". The fledgling station faced many obstacles--finding a proper antenna location, finding a studio space, finding the money to make it all happen. In 2007, just days away from losing its construction permit, when many on the organizing committee were ready to let the permit lapse, Michael pushed forward. He spearheaded the effort to install the antenna and transmitter at Joe's place on the old Highway 99. And so KSKQ went on the air.

In the years since, Michael was the indispensable technical resource, the man who knew broadcasting technology inside out and who single-handedly kept us on the air. The transition to the full power license, the installation of the transmitter on Table Mountain, the planning for the full power antenna, all of it wouldn't have happened without Michael.

We mourn his passing and remain deeply grateful for his contributions.

**KSKQ 89.5 FM**

*Community Radio*

## KSKQ Pledge Drive

One year at full power, southern Oregon's radio station is continuing to grow. KSKQ is our radio voice in the Rogue Valley. Support KSKQ during their PLEDGE DRIVE April 29 thru May 9 Call 541-482-3999 or pledge online at [www.kskq.org](http://www.kskq.org)

**FREE Movie and Door Prizes!!! Bring a bag lunch, Watch and Win!**  
**Are we all brainwashed? Or, have we lost our minds?**

# PROGRAMMING NATION?

A FILM BY  
**JEFF WARRICK**

## April 29th, 2015

**The History of Subliminal Messaging in America**

**Media-eye of Oregon Presents: Programming the Nation  
@ SOU Hannon Library | Meese Room | 3rd floor Rm. #305  
@ 12 Noon to 3pm, Meet the Director Via Skype and Q & A after film.**

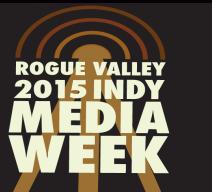
**In Conjunction with**

**11th Annual Rogue Valley Indy-Media Week - April 26 thru May 2, 2015**

**DVD's Will Be Available for Purchase. All proceeds to benefit bringing back -  
the RogueIMC ~ Rogue Valley Independent Media Center**



**"COMPELLING! Warrick proves he  
can go the distance. IMPRESSIVE."**  
-- *Char Easter, Seattle Examiner*



**AN INTERNATIONAL FILM CIRCUIT AND BUZZLEDOM RELEASE**   
**IGNITE PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH DIGITAL MEDIA FACTORY PRESENT A FILM BY JEFF WARRICK**  
**ORIGINAL SCORE EVAN EVANS AND ROBIN MACOMBER**  
**EDITED BY JEFF WARRICK AND STEFAN HACKER AND CATHERINE NIGHTINGALE**  
**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND PRODUCER MARTY COLLINS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER LYNDI STEWART**  
**WRITTEN, PRODUCED, AND DIRECTED BY JEFF WARRICK**

**programmingthenation.com**

**facebook.com/IndyMediaWeek**

**www.media-eye.net**

**11th Annual Independent Media Week**

## Rogue Valley celebrates Independent Media Week

Films, workshops and a proclamation from the State of Oregon will all be part of Ashland's 11th annual Independent Media Week. Running April 26 through May 2nd, Independent Media Week showcases independent media producers, students, local activists and community groups organized around the theme "A well-informed citizenry is a cornerstone of democracy".

Celebrating our communities rich, diverse local media, Independent Media Week is a grassroots campaign to showcase local media producers, how groups are using independent media in their campaigns, and to expand and inspire more local media production. This year will feature films, workshops and a keynote event leading into EMCOM, the emerging media convention at Southern Oregon University

In April 2005, the City of Ashland officially proclaimed its first Independent Media Week. Every year since, a coalition of local independent media organizations have asked the City of Ashland to proclaim one week in April as "Independent Media Week".

This year, Representative Peter Buckley delivered our proclamation to Salem where the legislature is expected to declare Independent Media Week statewide.

Along with the city proclamation, we celebrate by awarding a local media producer the "Hal Jamison Independent Media Award." Jamison was a long-time Ashland resident and supporter of independent, community media. This award is dedicated in his honor and showcases a community member who is dedicating their time and energy to support our independent media resources.

Organizing sponsors include KSKQ 89.5 FM Community Radio, UN Club of Southern Oregon, Rogue Valley TV, Rogue Valley Messenger, Rogue Valley Community Press, and Occupy Medford,



## Artist & activist Debra Van Poolen to keynote IMW

BY JASON HOUK

Debra Van Poolen has been a watercolor artist for 20 years, exhibiting her work in Oregon, Montana and Michigan. Debra first sold her landscape paintings at Ashland's Lithia Artisans Market in 1995. More recently, Van Poolen's artistic projects have focused on social, environmental, and foreign policy matters which the US mainstream media neglects or misrepresents.

During the Occupy movement in Ashland, Debra was a fixture at events and assemblies. Not afraid to take direct action, Debra traveled to Washington DC to report on protests during "Occupy Congress" actions in 2012, reporting live on KSKQ and the Ashland Free Press.

In 2013 Deb participated with Witness Against Torture and reported on their actions protesting the thirteenth anniversary of the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay

Aside from her work as an artist, Debra has worked as a permaculturist, organic farmer, and educator regarding traditionally sustainable cultures.

She coordinated programs for the International Society of Ecology and Culture's Ladakh Project in northern India. She has also taught drawing and painting in various settings, including

schools, summer camps and her home studio.

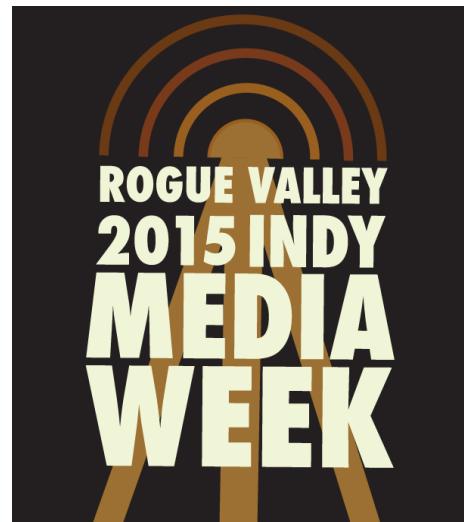
In 2013, Van Poolen made courtroom sketches each day of Chelsea Manning's summer-long court martial in Ft. Meade, Maryland. Debra's court drawings were utilized by several media outlets, including The Guardian, Russia Today, Long Island Press, Chelsea Manning Support Network, and Popular Resistance . In 2014 Debra's Artpiece entry of six drawings from the Chelsea Manning trial was chosen for the Juror's Shortlist of the top five entries from a field of 900 2-dimensional entries in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In January 2015, Debra exhibited her watercolors from Palestine's occupied West Bank in Washington, DC at The Jerusalem Fund's Al Quds gallery in a one month show titled "Natural History of Palestine".

Debra will be speak about her work following the film You Don't Like The Truth: Four Days Inside Guantanamo, 3:30pm - 5 pm on April 29 at the Hannon Library at Southern Oregon University. Debra will also be one of the Independent Media Week keynote speakers on Thursday, April 30 at 7 pm in the Rogue River Room in the Student Union at Southern Oregon University.

For more information, visit [www.debvanpoolen.com](http://www.debvanpoolen.com).

**April 26 - May 2nd 2015**



# Independent Media Week Schedule of Events

**Sunday, April 26**

## Breakfast at KSKQ

9 am – 11 am  
330 East Hersey St., Ashland

Start off your Independent Media Week in style with breakfast at KSKQ. The KSKQ breakfast/open house is a wonderful opportunity to meet the programmers and staff, see the station, and enjoy a delicious waffle. Enjoy a light breakfast and coffee served right at the station by the talented KSKQ radio producers.

## Media Circus

12 pm – 4 pm,  
Ashland Plaza.

Find out all about our Independent Media Week activities at the Media Circus. Performers and clowns will entertain while participating groups table about their actions and upcoming events.

**Monday, April 27**

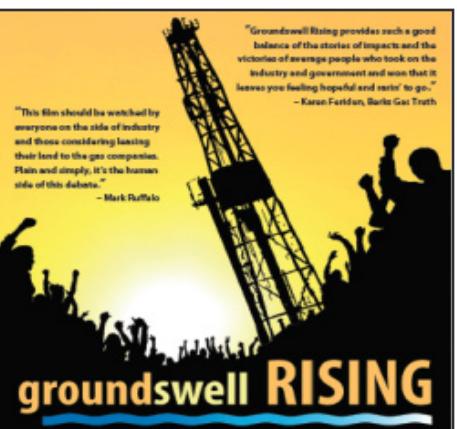
## Film: Cowspiracy

7pm. Bellview Grange,  
1050 Tolman Creek, Ashland

*Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret* is a groundbreaking feature-length environmental documentary following intrepid filmmaker Kip Andersen as he uncovers the most destructive industry facing the planet today – and investigates why the world's leading environmental organizations are too afraid to talk about it.

You can view the legislation at:  
<http://alturl.com/yx6m5>

**Tuesday, April 28**



## Film: Groundswell Rising

Doors open at 5pm film starts at 6pm  
Medford Public Library,  
205 South Central, Medford

*Groundswell Rising: Protecting Our Children's Air & Water* is a “plain & simple, a compelling documentary about the human side of the fracking debate” (Mark Ruffalo) Shown by Southern Oregon Climate Action Now. Video interviews with audience posted on social media by Occupy. Carpenter Room set aside for display of artwork. 5-6 open house time.

**Wednesday, April 29**

All events on Wednesday are in the Hannon Library at Southern Oregon University – Meese Meeting Room (305)

## RVTB Film Shorts : 8-9am

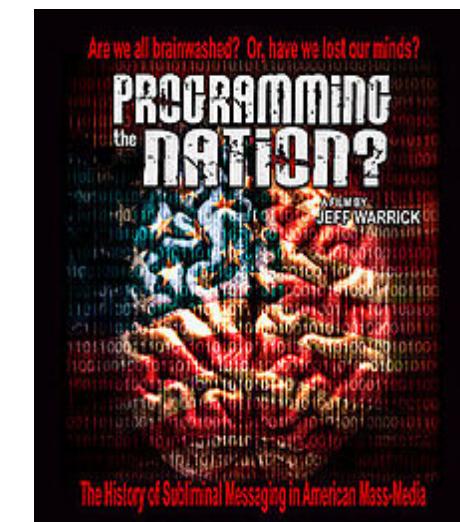
The UN Club will be showing short films from the RVTB and community media library for the first hour.

## Breakfast and Introduction:

9 am – 10 am. Introduction, muffins and coffee sponsored by the UN Club.

## Workshop & Film: Successful independent media use in action campaigns. 10-12am.

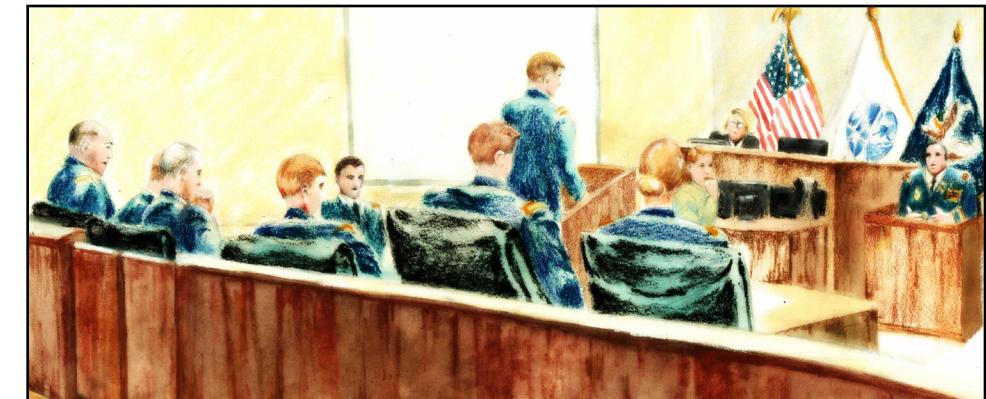
Move to Amend Jackson County, Health Care for All Oregon and Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice will host a discussion about their campaign and the use of independent media in getting the message out. Learn how grassroots media helped organize HCAO's recent Salem rally. View The Health Care Movie, an independent documentary produced in the Northwest that provides the real story of how the health care systems in Canada and the United States evolved to be so completely different.



## Film: Programming the Nation?

Noon-2:30pm.

Media eye is presenting *Programming the Nation?*, a 2011 feature-length social documentary written, produced and directed by Jeff Warrick. The film revisits the alleged history, research, implementation, and potential effects of subliminal programming in American mass-media, including interviews with Noam Chomsky, Amy Goodman, Dennis Kucinich, Eldon Taylor, Wilson Bryan Key, and other authors and experts in the field of advertising, psychology, music, film, politics, and military weaponry. After the movie we will be joined via Skype for a discussion with Jeff Warrick.



Ft. Meade courtroom during the Chelsea Manning Trial, sketched by Debra Van Poolen. Van Poolen will discuss her work during independent media week.

## Workshop: Self Broadcasting Techniques

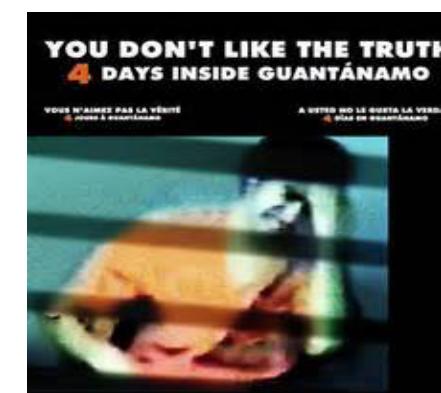
2:30-3:30pm.

Wendi Ingewson from Blackstone will provide tutorials and information about how best to self-broadcast using various devices, programs, and techniques.

## Film & Discussion: You Don't Like The Truth: Four Days Inside Guantanamo

3:30-5pm.

The UN Club will show *You Don't Like The Truth: Four Days Inside Guantanamo*, an award winning 2010 documentary. The film focuses on the recorded interrogations of Canadian child soldier Omar Khadr, by Canadian intelligence personnel that took place over four days from February 13–16, 2003. It presents these with observations by his lawyers and former cell mates from the Bagram Theater Internment Facility and Guantanamo Bay detention camps.



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## Discussion: Independent Media as a tool for social justice

5-6pm.

Following the movie, there will be a discussion about the use of independent media in social justice causes. The panel will include, keynote speaker Deb Van Poolen and Precious Yamaguchi (SOU)

## Panel: The Future of Independent Media

6-8pm.

Panel on the future of media, how traditional media is evolving in the digital age and how our community can be better media producers. Panel guests include Bert Edling (Ashland Daily Tidings), Josh Gross (Rogue Valley Messenger), Jason Houk (Rogue Valley Community Press), Wendy King (Vibes) and Keith Mansuer (Oregon Cannabis Connection).

## Film: To Light a Candle

8-10 pm.

The UN Club will present *To Light a Candle*, a film highlighting the persecution of Bahá'ís in Iran and focusing on the stories of those individuals associated with the shutdown of the Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education.

**Thursday, April 30**

## Keynote Event: Local Roots,

**Global Reach:** 7pm Rogue River Room, Stevenson Union, SOU

Featuring Austin Powell (Managing Editor of the Daily Dot) and Deb Van Poolen (artist and activist).

**Friday & Saturday, May 1-2**

## Emerging Media Convention:

Rogue River Room, Stevenson Union, Southern Oregon University

Featuring professional development panels & workshops, plus the Artist Alley student showcase.